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Department of Medical Genetics

Edman

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Dear Jack:

I was tickled down to my vortexes to read your prospectus, though I could hardly make head or tale of it (as I'm sure you know without my telling.) You always were fond of the paradox: an anarchical fascist would seem to fill the bill, especially as things are not as they seem. But tell me, wht in h is 'Vorticism' and how could such an outlandish name attach to something classical, even neo-neo. (That reminds me of the neo-neoDarwinisim that describes contemporary theory of evolution.)

But now that you've played into my hands with some of your own prase, I see even more paradox. 'Opera' sounds ~~as~~ very un-Fowlerish for works, and even 'confreres' has an effected sound. And I do believe that word 'plethora' is here, though you're not setting it adrift. But how about "such figures as.... et al."? But now, I just have to plead ignorance, and ask what you mean by 'alazon' and 'eiron'. I can't help feeling that you've written this tongue-in-cheek. Is that a dangerous game? Or is it part of the mood of Vorticism?

"Your 'look what I'm doing' is an excuse for a reply in kind. You can guess the pace if I tell you that Esther and I spent March in Paris, London and Scotland, and we're going August 1 for three months in Australia. I had quite enough air travel on the way back from London, as I had to go directly out to San Francisco before coming home to Madison. You should be an old hand at that sort of thing. The British do was a 'business trip' or we wouldn't have afforded it; most of the ~~of~~ fare was paid by a conference on drug-resistance, sponsored by the Ciba Foundation (a charity of the drug company of the same name). That was easy; for the rest I had to earn our way by giving a talk, ex tempore, in French before the Club de Physiologie Cellulaire in Paris. This was something of an ordeal; since then I ~~hasn't~~ ~~spoken~~ spoken another word of French even in banter. (My last schooling in the language was at Stuyvesant, but I've had to do some scientific reading in it from time to time.)

The letterhead carries another bit of news, something of an atavism you might say. The shift is purely formal for a while, until a new Research Wing is built. The extra duties of a chairmanship ought to let up soon for a department that now has just 'one indian, one chief', though we are angling for one other member. Surprisingly enough, the medical school here now has a dean that thinks there should be more science in medicine, and not least of all gentics; most places are more backward on this point. The only other news was a surprise of a few weeks ago, that I had been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. This is actually rather puzzling as the NAS is usually a refuge for venerability, but it gives me the problem now of decided whether I'm a 'botanist' or 'pathologist & Microbiologist', as there's no section of genetics, and most of my 'confreres' are in Botany.

Yours,